



Southern California Hospice Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Terminally Ill Mother of Two Makes a Trip to Disneyland, All to See Her Children Happy One Last Time

On Friday, December 10th Glenda Villatoro, a 29 year old wife and mother of two, made her last trip to Disneyland. For the past several years, the Villatoro family had wanted to revisit The Disneyland Resort, but because poor economic times spared no one, they were unable to return to the Happiest Place on Earth.

Then the unthinkable happened when Glenda was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer, which made their dream seem even farther from becoming a reality. Yet, their wish finally came true just in time for the holidays, when the Southern California Hospice Foundation gave the entire family, park hopper tickets. The Foundation's Angels on Wheel van, safely transported Glenda from her home in Pacoima to the Resort, which was followed by her husband Lester and their two children, Grace & Valerie in their own vehicle. A hospice nurse was sent with the family to tend to Glenda's medical needs and push her in her wheel chair while they were in the park.

The day was filled with fond memories for the couple, as well as beautiful new ones shared between two daughters and their parents. In fact, while the family rode King Arthur's Carousel, the youngest child, Valerie, screamed, "This is the best day ever!" And indeed it was.

Although Glenda was noticeably tired, her unwavering perseverance was admirable, as she relentlessly put herself aside for her children. While many of us want physical gifts and presents for Christmas, Glenda just wanted to see the smiles of her children. She was not able to go on many attractions in the park, but her physical limitations did not stop the emotional joy she felt in seeing her family enjoy in each other's presence in the park one last time. The laughter and cheer of Glenda's children brought a smile to her face, the same content look that one has when everything in their life is complete.

About the Southern California Hospice Foundation:

The Southern California Hospice Foundation's mission is to deliver a breadth of resources to caregivers, families and patients who are confronting the final stages of life. We accomplish this through a commitment to advocacy, education and a mutual respect for all faiths.

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